

Abstract

A protein which inhibits osteoclast differentiation and/or maturation and a method of production of the protein. The protein is produced by human embryonic lung fibroblasts and has molecular weight of about 60 kD and about 120 kD under non-reducing conditions and about 60 kD under reducing conditions on SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis, respectively.

The protein can be isolated and purified from culture medium of the said fibroblasts. Furthermore, the protein can be produced by gene engineering.

The present invention includes cDNA for producing the protein by gene engineering, antibodies having specific affinity to the protein or a method for determination of the protein concentration using the antibodies.